



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
March 6, 2009

Robert L. Genuario, Secretary
Office of Policy and Management

**IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR'S BILL NO. 6393
AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPORTATION, MOTOR VEHICLES, HIGHWAY
SAFETY AND SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND**

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony in support of House Bill 6393, AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPORTATION, MOTOR VEHICLES, HIGHWAY SAFETY AND THE SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND which implements a number of Governor Rell's budget proposals.

Section 1 of House Bill 6393 is one of two new highway safety initiatives included in the Governor Rell's proposed budget. It requires the Commissioner of Public Safety to establish a program for the installation of automatic traffic safety camera systems. We believe that use of camera enforcement will substantially enhance the state's efforts to control speeding on its highways.

Section 2 establishes a new surcharge on bad drivers. Under the Governor's proposal an operator who accumulates seven or more points on their driving license will be assessed a charge of \$100 a year for two consecutive years. Each additional point above seven will result in an additional \$50 surcharge.

In addition, a driver convicted of any one of the serious motor vehicle offenses identified in the bill would be assessed an additional surcharge of \$1,000 a year for two years. The offenses identified in the bill are:

- (1) Manslaughter, negligent homicide or a felony resulting from the operation of a motor vehicle;
- (2) Driving while impaired in violation of subsection (b) of section 14-227a of the general statutes;
- (3) Failing to stop and disclose identity at the scene of an accident when required by law; or

(4) Fleeing or eluding an officer.

Section 3 implements Governor Rell's proposal to place all responsibility of the State's weigh stations under the auspices of the Department of Motor Vehicles. This reorganization will consolidate weigh station responsibility in the Department of Motor Vehicles and allow 21 State Troopers to be available to the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety to redeploy to other mission essential areas of the Department.

Sections 4 through 19 are increases in various fees charged by the Department of Transportation and the Department of Motor Vehicles. I want to point out three things about these increases. First, they are needed in order to balance the Transportation Fund budget. Second, many of these fees have not been raised in a number of years. Third, most of the increases are fairly modest. For example, driver license fees generally increase by \$2 a year.

Finally, Section 21 makes a technical change to the financing plan for the New Haven Line rail cars. As a result of the switch from a fare surcharge to bonding as the source of some of the funding, it is necessary for the proceeds to flow directly into the Transportation fund, rather than a dedicated sub-account. This section accomplishes that.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.